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## 04/09/1986 - EIU Spring Football Camp

University Marketing and Communications

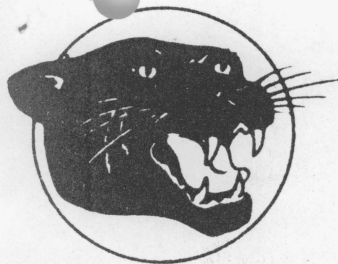
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# Panther Sports News

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHARLESTON, ILL. (April 9, 1986)--The excitement is riding high in the Eastern Illinois football camp this spring. Panther Head Coach Al Molde has been pleased as his squad is halfway through its spring drills.

"We are very happy with the attitude of the players in practice," explains Molde as he is preparing his fourth EIU team for combat this fall. "Everybody is hustling in practice and working really hard toward the team goals we've established. The scrimmages are lively and there is a great deal of hitting going on out there.

"One of the main improvements I've seen this spring has been our overall team speed and depth on defense. We are moving to the ball much better and with more confidence."

One of the standouts thus far has been freshman defensive tackle **JOHN JURKOVIC**. The 6-2, 240 pound Calumet City, Ill. native appears to have earned himself a spot on the defensive line. He had 20 total tackles and 1/2 sack a year ago.

"John has worked extremely hard this spring," states EIU Assistant Head Coach Larry Edlund. "I'm pleased with John's progress. He has looked very impressive during scrimmages. **JEFF MILLS** (Winnetka/New Trier) and **BILL COCHRANE** (Lake Zurich) are also looking good this spring. Both of them are really hitting people and making their presence felt on the field."

Molde is also looking forward to the annual Blue/Gray Game Saturday, April 19 (7:00 p.m.) at Charleston High School. Selected players and coaches will be going through the Charleston elementary schools next week distributing free tickets for children so they can attend next Saturday's game.

"We did the same thing in 1983 and it was very successful," Molde explains. "The main purpose is to promote the game in the area. We think it will be a fun game to come and see."

Record-setting quarterback **SEAN PAYTON** has been slowed in practice due to a couple of nagging injuries. However, Molde doesn't foresee it as a problem for Eastern.

"The timing of the offense has been off a bit because of Sean's absence," states Molde. "Our offense is a veteran unit and it just needs to be fine-tuned a bit. We all know what Payton, **ROY BANKS** (Detroit/King), **CALVIN PIERCE** (Robbins/Richards) and Du**WAYNE PITTS** (Detroit/MacKenzie) are capable of. We had one of the highest powered offenses in the country last year and I don't expect anything different this season."